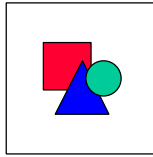


Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Joe Leean
Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

DIVISION OF SUPPORTIVE LIVING

BUREAU OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
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Date: January 20, 1999

DSL-BQA-99-005

To: Home Health Agencies

HHA 02

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Outcome Assessment Information Data Set (OASIS) UPDATE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information related to the federal Outcome Assessment Information Data Set (OASIS) implementation.

The Bureau of Quality Assurance is making available for purchase three HCFA training manuals that home health agencies should use to implement the HCFA regulations for comprehensive patient assessments, including the data collection and data requirements related to reporting the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS). Agencies can purchase a complete set of the three manuals or purchase individual manuals. A brief description and cost of each manual are identified below:

OASIS Implementation Manual

This manual covers the overall OASIS implementation process from a clinical and management perspective. It includes detailed information to train clinical staff to use OASIS as part of the comprehensive assessment and materials to assist operationally in the implementation of OASIS data collection and data reporting.

System User's Guide

This manual covers the data submission process for home health agencies, including how to access the state system that will be used for electronic data submission, procedures for submitting data (including corrections of previously submitted data), and interpretation of feedback reports from the state system.

HAVEN System Reference Manual

This manual covers the use of HAVEN software, which has been developed to provide home health agencies with software for data entry, editing, and validation of OASIS data. It includes information on setting up the software, defining agency and employee information, entering patient and assessment data, and data management functions.

If you are interested in purchasing these manuals, please send your request specifying the manual/manuals you would like to purchase, with a check made payable to the *Division of Supportive Living*, to the following address:

**Bureau of Quality Assurance
Attention: Barb Carey
PO Box 309
Madison WI 53701**

PLEASE NOTE: Contact Barb Carey, at 608-267-1446, to obtain information about special rates associated with ordering 5 or more manuals, 5 or more copies of any individual manual, or tax exempt agencies.

Manual NUMBER OF SETS OR INDIVIDUAL MANUALS	COST			
	1	2	3	4
Set of all 3 manuals	\$ 19.63	\$ 36.86	\$ 54.09	\$ 71.37
PSL-3133 OASIS 1998 Implementation Manual	14.42	26.32	38.28	50.24
PSL-3132 OASIS System User's Guide 1.0	6.30	11.55	15.61	20.09
PSL-3131 OASIS HAVEN System Reference Manual 1.0	2.09	2.94	3.78	6.02

OASIS Educational Offerings

Pending publication of the final rule, the Bureau of Quality Assurance is planning to offer three programs to provide OASIS updates related to data collection and automation via the Educational Teleconference Network (ETN). The OASIS programs will be presented on the following dates:

February 17, 1999	2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.
March 15, 1999	2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.
April 13, 1999	11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

These programs are provided free of charge and there is no need to pre-register with the Bureau of Quality Assurance. A list of the ETN listening locations is attached for your reference. Select the most convenient listening location and contact them directly prior to the program to schedule your attendance.

The regulations relative to OASIS collection and reporting are in the final stages of the clearing process. The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) continues to anticipate publication of the final rule soon. Although the date of publication is not known, we do know that the regulations become effective 30 days following their publication in the federal register. Entering of the test data will be required within 60 days of the rule's publication; reporting requirements become effective 90 days following publication. The specific effective dates will be published in the final regulations.

HCFA has indicated to state agencies that implementation of the prospective payment system (PPS) has been delayed until October 1, 2000.

What's new on the web?

HAVEN	OASIS B-1 (10/98 version)	Permission to use OASIS	Announcements Corrections Updates
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The software necessary to receive and process OASIS data at the State was installed in early January 1999. We expect that home health agencies will be able to submit test data around the end of February 1999. Agencies should refer to BQA Memo 98-058, dated November 25, 1998, for further information on OASIS automation. Home health agencies are encouraged to consult the HCFA web site often for information on automation and other aspects of OASIS implementation. The OASIS web address is <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasishmp.htm>.

In addition, the following resources are currently available to provide support to home health agencies for OASIS implementation and the HAVEN software:

HAVEN Help Line	1-877-201-4721 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time)
HAVEN E-mail address	HAVEN_HELP@IFMC.ORG

Home health agencies that wish to receive the HAVEN software should register for it now, either on the OASIS web site at <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/hhsoftw.htm>, or by contacting the HAVEN help line. Registration will allow you to receive a free copy of the HAVEN CD-ROM.

Home health agencies are encouraged to not wait until publication of the final rule before incorporating the OASIS data elements into their comprehensive assessment forms and day-to-day operations. The OASIS B-1 (version 10/98) and its accompanying data submission specifications (version 1.02) are currently available on the HCFA web site. The previous version of the OASIS B-1 (8/98 version), as well as the previous version of the data submission specifications (version 1.01), are now out-of-date and must be replaced by the 10/98 versions.

Pending publication of the final regulations governing the collection and reporting of OASIS data, OASIS data are to be collected at the following time points: start of care, resumption of care after an inpatient stay, follow-up (including re-certification and other follow-up), and discharge/death. We have attached a copy of the OASIS B-1 form (10/98 version) and a comparison chart identifying the data elements that need to be collected at specific time points. Also, the HCFA web site now has [text versions](#) (in both Word and WordPerfect formats) of the OASIS data items available. This will enable providers to create their own comprehensive and follow-up assessments.

Several general principles must be followed when you integrate the OASIS items into your comprehensive assessment. These include:

- Items in the revised clinical documentation must be exact duplicates of the OASIS items.
- All OASIS items, which are appropriate for the time point, must be included in the assessment documentation, though their sequence may be altered.
- Unique OASIS identification markers (M00 numbers) should be retained.
- All skip patterns must be carefully observed.

- The item wording variations between specific time points must be observed.
- Documentation by all disciplines who complete the comprehensive assessment must follow the OASIS integration guidelines.

The HCFA web site technical page now provides access to the copyright document granting all organizations or individuals the nonexclusive right to copy or reprint the contents of the OASIS and to incorporate OASIS items into printed forms, software or other products.

In addition, this web site is frequently updated to include OASIS informational announcements, responses to frequently asked questions, and additions or corrections to forms and other previously released information.

The Bureau of Quality Assurance has established an Internet site for information on home health agencies. Included are links to HCFA press releases, copies of BQA memos and letters, and other items. You may access this site at: http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/rl_DSL/HHAs/HHAintro.htm.

NOTE: Clarification Regarding Home Visits Following Discharge

The Bureau of Quality Assurance has received clarification from HCFA regarding the need to conduct a home visit for completion of the discharge OASIS items.

If the physician determines that the patient does not require additional visits and requests discharge, the agency would report the patient status at the last skilled visit prior to that date. The comprehensive assessment required following discharge must be completed within 48 hours (Implementation manual page 2.3 (d) – Update of comprehensive assessment). Therefore, the home visit that the OASIS data collection would be based on is the last skilled visit. The agency would indicate this date in OASIS item M0090, the date the OASIS assessment was completed. This discharge assessment (not transfer to the inpatient facility) will always be based on a skilled clinician's (registered nurse, physical therapy, speech/language pathology or occupational therapy) home visit. There is no need to conduct another visit after receiving the MD order to discontinue services. There is no edit check problem generated if the answers to M0090 and M0906 are not identical.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding OASIS data collection to Barbara Woodford, OASIS Educational Coordinator, at (608) 264-9896. Questions related to software and data transmission should be directed to Richard Betz, OASIS Automation Coordinator, at (608) 264-9898.

Attachments

JF/BW/tm

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